

CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
SAN FRANCISCO BAY REGION

ORDER NO. 90-151
NPDES NO. CA0004910

AMENDING WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS FOR:

THE DOW CHEMICAL COMPANY
WESTERN DIVISION, PITTSBURG PLANT
PITTSBURG, CONTRA COSTA COUNTY

The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Francisco Bay Region (hereinafter called the Board) finds that:

1. This Board, on June 21, 1989, adopted Waste Discharge Requirements, Order No. 89-093, for Dow Chemical Company, Western Division (hereinafter called the discharger). The discharger currently manufactures chlorine, sodium hydroxide, hydrogen, latex, agricultural chemicals, fumigants, fungicides, and chlorinated solvents. The discharger also conducts chemical development research, treats raw water and sanitary wastes, and generates both electricity and steam at the discharger's Pittsburg Plant.
2. Order No. 89-093 regulates the discharger's wastewater discharges to New York Slough. This amendment affects just one of the three wastewater streams regulated: Waste 001. Waste 001 consists of water treatment wastes including the supernatant from clarifier bottoms, fire protection test and washdown water, chlor-alkali electrolytic cell washdown and sulfate reject streams, stormwater runoff and occasional discharges of power plant boiler blowdown and various sitewide cooling tower blowdown streams. The average discharge rate is 0.9 million gallons per day (mgd), and the current maximum rate is 2.1 mgd. Treatment consists of pH adjustment followed by sedimentation in an unlined pond. The discharge is through an outfall into New York Slough at a point approximately 100 feet offshore at a depth of 25 feet.
3. Provision C.3. of Order No. 89-093 specifies a time schedule for the discharger to conduct a Toxic Substances Control Program and Alternate Limit Study for Waste 001. In part, the discharger is required to 1) evaluate and propose an alternate effluent limit for nickel by September 1, 1990, or 2) comply with a limit of 71 microgram per liter (ug/l) by May 1, 1991. Under the Program, the discharger identified that the primary source of nickel in waste 001 is the Chlor-Alkali production facility.
4. By letter dated August 29, 1990, the discharger declined to request an alternate effluent limit for nickel. Instead, the discharger requested the Board to relax the May 1, 1991 nickel compliance date. The main reason given is the discharger's plans to phase out two production facilities at the Pittsburg Plant: the Chlorinated solvents and the Chlor-Alkali facilities. Shutdown is to occur separately in 1991

(Chlorinated solvents) and 1992 (Chlor-Alkali). During this time, the discharger will work with Sanitary Sewer District 7A to design and construct facilities necessary for the discharger to discharge remaining process wastewaters to the sanitary sewer. The discharger expects to complete this transition by December 1992.

5. This order extends the effluent limit compliance date for nickel in Waste 001 to January 1, 1993. The Board finds that this amendment is justified considering the significant improvements planned by the discharger to their wastewater system.
6. This amendment is a modification of an NPDES Permit in accordance with 40 CFR 124.5.
7. The amendment of waste discharge requirements for this discharge is exempt from the provisions of Chapter 3 (commencing with Section 21000 of Division 13) of the Public Resources Code (CEQA) pursuant to Section 13389 of the California Water Code.
8. The Board has notified the discharger and interested agencies and persons of its intent to amend waste discharge requirements for the discharge and has provided them with an opportunity for a public hearing and an opportunity to submit their written views and recommendations.
9. The Board, in a public meeting, heard and considered all comments pertaining to the discharge.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT Waste Discharge Requirements, Order No. 89-093 for Dow Chemical Company, Western Division, is amended as described below, and that the discharger in order to meet the provisions contained in Division 7 of the California Water Code and regulations adopted thereunder, and the provisions of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act and regulations and guidelines adopted thereunder, shall comply with the following:

A. Amendments to Order No. 89-093

Provision C.3.d. shall read:

"	Task	Compliance Date
d.	Achieve compliance with the limits for cyanide, mercury, and silver listed under Effluent Limitation A.1.a. of this Order.	May 1, 1991"

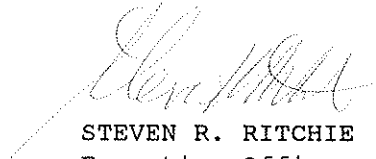
The following provision shall be added to C.3.:

"	Task	Compliance Date
e.	Achieve compliance with the nickel effluent limit listed under A.1.a. of this Order.	January 1, 1993"

B. Other Conditions

1. The discharger shall comply with all amendments made by this Order immediately upon adoption.
2. This order, along with Order No. 89-093, expires on June 21, 1994. The discharger must file a report of waste discharge in accordance with Title 23 of the California Code of Regulations not later than 180 days in advance of such expiration date as application for issuance of new waste discharge requirements.
3. This Order shall serve as modification of National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit pursuant to Section 402 of the Clean Water Act or amendments thereto, and shall become effective 10 days after date of its adoption provided the Regional Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, has no objection. If the Regional Administrator objects to its issuance, the modifications shall not become effective until such objection is withdrawn.

I, Steven R. Ritchie, Executive Officer do hereby certify the foregoing is a full, true and correct copy of an Order adopted by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Francisco Bay Region on December 12, 1990.



STEVEN R. RITCHIE
Executive Officer